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Whitchurch (Hants)

Rural District Council

REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR 1925.

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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE

Rural District of Whitchurch,
Hants,

For the Year ended 31st December, 1925.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,—

I beg to submit my ANNUAL REPORT for the year 1925, copies of which have been forwarded to the Ministry of Health, the Home Office, and the Hants County Council. This is a survey report which is made every five years.

Natural and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area—30,609 Acres.

Population—Census 1921, 6411.

Estimated 1925, 6390.

The area contains three large villages, Whitchurch, Overton, and St. Mary Bourne, and a number of small hamlets, and consists chiefly of agricultural land of an undulating character.

Rateable value—£62,183.

Sum represented by a penny rate—£207.

Besides agricultural employment there are two Paper Mills, a Jam Factory, and a small Silk Mill, which give occupation to a number of people.

Registered Births.

		1924.	1925.
Whitchurch Division	....	46	46
Overton Division	....	43	43
St. Mary Bourne Division	....	12	16
		—	—
Total	....	101	105
		—	—
Illegitimate Births	....	3	3

Deaths.

		1924.	1925.
Whitchurch Division	....	37	27
Overton Division	....	11	13
St. Mary Bourne Division	....	10	10
		—	—
Total	....	58	50
		—	—

Deaths of Infants under one year of age:—

		1924.	1925.
Whitchurch Division	....	2	3
Overton	....	1	3
St. Mary Bourne	....	1	0
		—	—
Total	....	4	6
		—	—

Deaths in Public Institutions within the District:—

		1924.	1925.
Whitchurch Poor Law Institution			
Infirmary	....	10	16 3
Whitchurch Isolation Hospital	....	1	

Deaths in Public Institutions beyond the District:—

	1924.	1925.
	7	16

Vital Statistics.

Table I. towards the end of the Report gives information relative to the last six years.

The amount of Outdoor Poor Law relief in 1925 was :—£536 4s. 10½d.

The registered births for Whitchurch and Overton Divisions were the same in 1924 and 1925, and the number of deaths registered in the district have been the same for St. Mary Bourne for the last three years.

A large number of patients are attended at the Royal Hants County Hospital, Winchester, chiefly for operations, X-ray treatment and diseases affecting the eye. A few cases go to Andover and Basingstoke Cottage Hospitals.

Most years a large number of cases of influenza have occurred. Mention will be made of Scarlet Fever, and Diphtheria, under Infectious Diseases.

No occupation appears to have had a prejudicial effect on health, but the lack of houses has caused a certain amount of overcrowding, which has no doubt contributed to the spread of infectious disease.

Hospitals provided or subsidised by the Local Authority or by the County Hospital.

1. Tuberculosis. There are none in the district. The cases are sent by the Hants County Council to various sanatoria, most of them to Bournemouth and some to Ventnor.

2. Maternity. None in the district. The cases are sent to Winchester County Hospital. The Hants County Council makes arrangements for this.

3. Children—Nil.

4. Fever—Whitchurch Isolation Hospital, provided by the Local Authority, contains 12 beds, where two diseases can be treated concurrently. This is used for cases occurring in the Whitchurch Rural District. It is situated about 2 miles north of Whitchurch.

5. Small Pox—The Hants County Council has made arrangements to treat any cases that may occur.

6. Other—Nil.

The Poor Law Institution, Whitchurch, provides the only “Institutional Provision” for unmarried mothers, illegitimate infants and homeless children in the area.

Ambulance Facilities.

(a) For infectious cases—A horse-drawn ambulance is provided by the Local Authority to convey patients to the Isolation Hospital.

(b) For non-infectious and accident cases—Ambulances can be obtained at Winchester and Andover. The majority of cases are removed to Hospital in a motor car.

Clinics and Treatment Centres.

Maternity and Child Welfare Centres—Periodically in the various villages.

Day Nurseries—Nil.

School Clinics—The various schools are visited periodically by the School Medical Officers appointed by the Hants County Council.

Tuberculosis Dispensaries

Cases from this area go to

(a) Andover.

(b) Basingstoke.

Provided by the Hants County Council.

Treatment Centres for Venereal Diseases—Winchester, Royal Hants County Hospital; Basingstoke.

Public Health Officers of the Local Authority.

No whole time officers.

The part time officers are the Medical Officer of Health and the Sanitary Inspector.

The Sanitary Inspector holds the diplomas of the Royal Sanitary Institute as an inspector of nuisances and as an inspector of meat and other foods.

The Sanitary Inspector is also Highway Surveyor.

Professional Nursing in the Home.

Whitchurch, Overton and St. Mary Bourne each have a district Nurse who attends midwifery cases and does a certain amount of home nursing.

The Local Authority pays an annual subscription to each of the Nursing Funds.

The number of midwives practising in the area is 3.

Chemical Work.

Any analyses can be made at the laboratory, Winchester, provided by the Hants County Council.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water.

The water supply of the district is from wells which vary in depth—from a few feet to 300 feet, and also from tube wells.

The larger houses have their own water supply, but many of the smaller have a common water supply, one well or pump supplying half-a-dozen houses.

A number of public pumps are provided by the Local Authority.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

Pollution.

As mentioned in my last report owing to complaints of the River Test being polluted by effluent discharged into it, a piece of ground was acquired near Winchester Street and the effluent treated in open filter beds. By February, 1925, there had been so many bitter complaints by the people living near of the noxious odour arising from the filter beds that the effluent was discharged untreated into the river. It then became obvious that the only satisfactory remedy would be a sewerage system by which the sewage mixed with the liquid washes from the Jam Factory, would be carried to sewage disposal works far removed from the river, the solids in suspension removed by "Quiescent Settlement" in tanks working under aerobic

conditions and the effluent then drawn off and allowed to percolate into the soil. By this means all river pollution should be prevented.

Drainage and Sewerage, Scavenging, &c.

No sewerage system exists, though it is contemplated providing one at Whitchurch. At present the soil is collected by a night cart twice a week in Whitchurch and Overton. The pail system is adopted for the smaller houses and cesspits by the larger.

No arrangement is made for cleansing the pails.

The house refuse is removed by the Scavenger twice a week in Whitchurch and Overton and the refuse at Whitchurch burnt.

The contents of the night cart are taken to a suitable place and dug into the ground. Cesspits are emptied periodically as required.

Movable ashbins with proper coverings are provided by a few householders, but in most cases any old box, bucket, barrel or bath does duty and as these are uncovered some of the contents become scattered about. A properly covered movable metal ashbin should be made compulsory.

The sanitary condition and water supply of the elementary schools have been seen to, and at Overton Schools a new drainage system has been put in with earth pails and peat urinals.

The lavatories drain into cesspits.

HOUSING.

I.—General Housing Conditions in the Area.

1. General Housing Conditions—Fair.
2. (a) Extent of shortage or excess of houses. The shortage is very acute in the whole district.
- (b) Measures taken or contemplated to meet any shortage. Twelve houses are being built by the Local Authority at Whitchurch, and others are contemplated.

3. Information as to any important changes in population during the period under review, or anticipated in the future. There have been no important changes in population, but there is a slight fluctuation due to increase or decrease of employment.

II.—Overcrowding.

1. Extent. There is considerable overcrowding chiefly at Whitchurch and Overton, and to a less degree at St. Mary Bourne.

2. Causes. Lack of sufficient building in recent years.

3. Measures taken or contemplated for dealing with overcrowding. It is difficult to deal with overcrowding until more houses are built.

4. Principal cases of overcrowding during the year 1925 and action taken. No action taken.

III.—Fitness of Houses.

1. (a) General standard of housing in the area.
Working class dwellings poor.

- (b) General character of the defects found to exist in unfit houses. Age and decay.

- (c) How far defects are due to the lack of proper management and supervision by owners, or to acts of waste or neglect by tenants. About 50 per cent. due to each.

IV.—No complaints received as to unhealthy areas.

HOUSING.

HOUSING STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1925.

Number of new houses erected during the year:—

(a) Total (including numbers given separately under (b)).	9
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- (b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts:
- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| (i) By the Local Authority. | 0 |
| (ii) By other bodies or persons | 6 |

I.—Unfit Dwelling-Houses.

- Inspection—(1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects under Public Health or Housing Acts) 91
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910, or the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 91
- (3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation Nil
- (4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation Nil

II.—Remedy of Defects without Service of Formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers Nil

III.—Action under Statutory Powers.

A.—Proceedings under section 3 of the Housing Act, 1925.

- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs 72

- | | | | | | |
|-----|--|------|------|------|-----|
| (2) | Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices | .... | .... | .... | 69 |
| | (a) By owners | .... | .... | .... | 69 |
| | (b) By Local Authority in default of owners | .... | .... | .... | Nil |
| (3) | Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close | .... | .... | .... | Nil |

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

- | | | | | | |
|-----|--|------|------|------|-----|
| (1) | Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied | .... | .... | .... | Nil |
| (2) | Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices | .... | .... | .... | Nil |
| | (a) By owners | .... | .... | .... | Nil |
| | (b) By Local Authority in default of owners | .... | .... | .... | Nil |

C.—Proceedings under sections 11, 14, and 15 of the Housing Act, 1925.

- | | | | |
|-----|--|------|-----|
| (1) | Number of representations made with a view to making of Closing Orders | .... | Nil |
| (2) | Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made | .... | Nil |
| (3) | Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit | .... | Nil |
| (4) | Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made | .... | Nil |
| (5) | Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders | .... | Nil |

Legislation in Force.

Public Health Act, 1875.

Public Health Acts Amendment Acts, 1890 and 1907.

(a) Milk Supply. This appears to be satisfactory. The cowsheds and dairies are examined periodically, and it is seen that the necessary limewashing is carried out. Samples of milk are taken by the County Council Inspector and examined.

(1) Action taken as to tuberculous milk and tuberculous cattle—Nil.

(2) Numbers of licences granted for the sale of milk under special designations, classified as in the Fourth Schedule to the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1923—Nil.

Types of apparatus licensed for the pasteurisation of milk—Nil.

(3) Refusal or revocation or registration of retailers or of licenses for graded milk, with reasons for the refusal or revocation—Nil.

(4) The summarised results of the bacteriological examination of samples of graded and other milk. New Milk—6 Samples genuine, 1 unsatisfactory.

(b) Meat.

(1) Meat inspection is made practically daily. The Inspector attends a very large proportion of the slaughtering. No arrangement has been made for marking meat. Carcases found diseased are disposed of by burning.

(2) Administration of the Public Health (Meat) Regulations 1924 as regards stalls, shops, stores and vehicles. These have been periodically visited.

III.—The Management of the Public Slaughterhouses (if any)—All private.

Private Slaughterhouses :

	In January, In December,		
	In 1920.	1925.	1925.
Total	4	5	5

(c) Other Foods. No other unsound foods have been found.

Sanitary condition of bakehouses, &c., &c.—Very fair.

(d) No cases of food poisoning.

Samples taken during the year 1925 and analysed by the Hants County Council Health Department:—

Found to be genuine :

Butter	2	New Milk	6
Coffee	1	Pepper	1
Condensed Milk	12	Vinegar	1
Jam	1	Whiskey	3
Lard	2		

Found to be unsatisfactory :

New Milk	1	Whiskey	1
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Infectious Diseases generally.

The prevalence of notifiable infectious diseases during the period since 1920 varied greatly, Scarlet Fever cases being most numerous in 1922 and Diphtheria in 1921. Chicken Pox was made notifiable in September, 1923, and there were 107 cases notified in 1924.

The following table shows the number of cases of Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, Chicken Pox, Pulmonary Tuberculosis and other forms of Tuberculosis, Pneumonia and Malaria :—

	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.
Scarlet Fever	1	100	36	12	20
Diphtheria	48	32	19	7	2
Chicken Pox			3	107	13
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	5	9	9	7	9
Other Forms of Tuberculosis....	4	3	1	2	2
Pneumonia	5	8	11	4	6
Malaria	1		1		

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality during 1925.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths	
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0			1			
1						
5						
10						
15	1	2				
20		1			1	
25	1	2				2
35			1		2	
45	1	1				
55						
65 and upwards						
Totals	3	6	2		3	2

Pathological and bacteriological specimens can be sent to the County Council Laboratory (Winchester), and many specimens are sent particularly throat swabs. Where a case of Typhoid Fever has occurred every use has been made of the Laboratory, not only by the examination of drinking water and food, but also by the examination of the excretions of suspected carriers.

No use has been made of the Schick and Dick tests, or of artificial methods of immunization.

No primary vaccinations or re-vaccinations were performed by the Medical Officer of Health under the Public Health (Small Pox Prevention) Regulations, 1917.

Measles.

The district was fairly free from Measles in 1921 and 1922; a large number of cases occurred in 1923, and not more than the average in 1924 and 1925.

Influenza.

Every year a fair number of cases occur ; in 1921 there were many mild cases and in 1922 a much larger number. In the other three years about the average number of cases occurred, mostly of a mild type.

The following deaths occurred :—

1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.
4	3	3	1	0

School intimations of disease are utilised ; they are especially useful in cases of Chicken Pox, where the parents often do not notify cases.

McDougall's Vap lamps are used for disinfecting rooms and bedding is disinfected when required, by the steam disinfectors.

Mr. W. J. Hiscox has always willingly given me every possible help.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

F. A. COATES,

Medical Officer of Health.

TABLE I.—Vital Statistics of whole District during 1925 and Previous Years.
WHITCHURCH (HANTS) RURAL DISTRICT.

YEAR.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	BIRTHS.				TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT.		TRANSFERABLE DEATHS.		NETT DEATHS BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.		
		Un-corrected Number.	Number.	NETT.	Rate.	Number.	Rate.	of Non-residents registered in the District.	of Residents not registered in the District.	Under 1 Year of Age.	Rate per 1000 Net Births.	At all Ages.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1920	6246	145	170	27.2	62	9.9	1	13	11	64.7	74	11.8
1921	6370	135	155	24.4	69	10.8	2	17	15	96.7	84	13.1
1922	6441	160	162	25.1	67	10.4	...	12	8	49.0	79	12.2
1923	6438	116	125	19.4	69	10.7	...	16	6	48.0	85	13.2
1924	6474	101	109	16.8	58	8.9	...	8	4	36.6	66	10.1
1925	6390	105	110	17.2	50	7.8	...	18	7	63.6	68	10.6

Area of District in Acres (exclusive of area covered by water) — 30,609. Total population at all ages — 6,390.
Number of inhabited houses 1536. Average number of persons per house 4.1.

TABLE II.—Cases of Infectious Disease Notified during the Year 1925.
WHITCHURCH (HANTS) RURAL DISTRICT.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	NUMBER OF CASES NOTIFIED.							TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED IN EACH LOCALITY.			Total Cases removed to Hospital	
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.						Whitchurch.	Overton.	St. Mary Bourne.		
		Under 1.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 45.	45 and under 65.					65 and upwards.
Scarlet Fever...	20	...	2	14	4	...	...	...	10	10	...	20
Diphtheria (including Membranous Group)	2	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...
Erysipelas ...	9	...	...	1	1	2	3	2	9	...	...	...
Pneumonia ...	6	...	...	...	1	3	1	1	5	...	1	...
Pulmonary M3	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	...	3	...	...	...
Tuberculosis F6	9	...	...	...	3	2	1	1	2	2	2	...
Other forms of M2	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	2	...	...	...
Tuberculosis F	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Chicken Pox	13	...	6	6	1	...	...	...	13	...	...	...
Totals ...	61	...	9	23	11	9	6	3	45	13	3	20

Isolation Hospital—Whitchurch (Hants), provided by Rural District Council.

Total available Beds, 12.
 Number of Diseases that can be concurrently treated, 2.

**TABLE III.—Causes of Death during
Year 1925.**

WHITCHURCH (HANTS) RURAL DISTRICT.

CAUSES OF DEATH. Civilians only.	Males.	Females.
All causes	32	36
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	3	2
Cancer, malignant disease ...	6	4
Diabetes	1	4
Cerebral hæmorrhage, &c. ...	2	1
Heart disease	4	5
Arterio-sclerosis	1	
Bronchitis		3
Pneumonia (all forms) ...	3	1
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	2	1
Acute and chronic nephritis...	1	2
Congenital debility and malformation, premature birth	3	1
Suicide		1
Other deaths from violence ...	1	
Other defined diseases ...	5	11
Deaths of infants under 1 year of age	4	3
Illegitimate	1	
Total births	52	58
Legitimate	51	56
Illegitimate	1	2
Population for births & deaths	6,390	

TABLE IV.—Infant Mortality during the Year 1925.

Deaths from stated causes at various Ages under One Year of Age.

WHITCHURCH (HANTS) RURAL DISTRICT.

CAUSE OF DEATH.	Under 1 week.	1—2 Weeks.	2—3 Weeks.	3—4 Weeks.	Total under 4 weeks.	1—3 Months.	3—6 Months.	6—9 Months.	9—12 Months.	Total Deaths under One Year.
ALL CAUSES—										
Certified ...	3	1	...	...	4	2	1	...	...	7
Uncertified ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Congenital Malformation	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	2
Premature Birth ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Cerebral Haemorrhage ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Asphyxia ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Convulsions ...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Syncope ...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Totals	3	1	...	...	...	2	1	...	...	7

Rural District of Whitchurch, Hants.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1925
on the Administration of the Factory and Workshops Act, 1901,
in connection with Factories, Workshops, Workplaces and
Homework.

1.—INSPECTION :

Factories (including Factory Laundries) ...	8
Workshops (including Workshop Laundries)	2
Workplaces (other than Outworkers' Premises)	6
	—
Total ...	16
	—

2.—DEFECTS FOUND :

Nuisances under the Public Health Acts ...	1
Offences under the Factory and Workshop Acts	Nil

3.—HOME WORK—*Nil*.

4.—REGISTERED WORKSHOPS :

Workshops on the Register at the end of the year	9
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5.—OTHER MATTERS :

Matters notified to H.M. Inspector of Factories	Nil
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